March 2025: Copy for the Parish Magazine

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PARISH COUNCIL

Village Housing

I was asked a question last week which touches on the future of Lytchett Matravers. When does a village become a town? How big does it have to be? One hundred years ago the population was around 800, today it's probably close to 3,800. One hundred years ago, the parish minutes record the need for a few more houses of a suitable size and rent. That need is still with us, not just in our village but across the country.
The Neighbourhood Plan group is continuing its mission to try to outline and influence the parameters around the housing need and how it will be met. As mentioned last month, many aspects remain unclear. We will be meeting with Dorset Council on a regular basis to look to get some clear guidance.
Village or town? Government sources show that the cutover is at a population of 7,500. However, there are several towns in Dorset with the same population or smaller which are towns.

Spring Litter Pick

Spring is in air and our first litter pick of 2025 will be on Sunday March 9th at 2 p.m. As usual, registration will be at the upper car park on the Rec. We will provide safety guidance and allocate routes, but if you have a favourite, we should be able to organise that.
In line with safety guidance, you must wear gloves. Please bring your own litter pickers and High-Vis jackets if you have them although we will have both available for you to borrow and will supply bags for collecting the litter.

Guerrilla Gardeners

Continuing the spring theme, our band of orange clad volunteer gardeners will be starting the new season on March 4th. Our first gathering will be at the Sports Pavilion to reunite and set out our plans. We always need more volunteers and now we have a central storage place at the pavilion for various items of equipment. If anyone has spades or forks they are not using, the GGs will more than happy to bring them back into use. Better than that, come along with your spade and fork and join in. It's a community and social group who meet every Tuesday at 9.30 for 2 hours. The tasks are all manageable, but they do make a visible difference to our village.

VE 80

A reminder that the whole country will be celebrating the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day (VE) on May 8th. We will have the usual beacon lighting at 9.15 p.m. orchestrated by the national pageant master. Prior to that we plan to have the Village Hall open for small film shows, a U3A Lytchett Matravers WWII exhibition as well as the usual refreshments.

Mid- Summer Festival

Once again, the Mid-Summer Festival will be held on the Recreation ground on June 28th with music, food, the dog show, trade stands, bouncy castle, train rides for youngsters and lots more including the raffle. If you are interested in performing at the Open Mic session, want to showcase your Business or Craft or happy to assist on the day do please contact us. Last year some 700 of our community came together for fun, enjoyment and laughter. Make sure you have the date in your diary.

Village Bins

We are conducting a survey of our bins, both waste bins and dog bins. As the village grows, we do need more bins, and the trend is now to have a combined bin rather than separate ones. Some bins need replacement, but there are areas where additional bins could be needed. Let us know where you think a bin is missing or, if one is so overused, where we should put another bin or a larger bin in the same spot. Don't forget you can post your ideas to the Parish Council Facebook page.

Recreation Ground

The Viking swing is due to be renovated in March and will be ready for the summer season. We did debate about another type of replacement, but the swing has proved popular. If you have other ideas about how to upgrade Rocket Park, then let us know.

We do plan to recycle the wooden legs that are sound. These could be used as fence posts or along paths to create steps. Probably another GG project.

New Mobile Phone Mast

The Parish Council has been contacted through Dorset Council as to where we might site an additional mobile phone mast in the village. Many of us suffer from intermittent connectivity and where the best spots are within your house or garden. While the idea is to find the optimum location that improves coverage throughout the village, this will need to be a location satisfactory to residents and is next to a convenient electrical connection. The Parish Council will continue to work Dorset Council and its partner to come up with suggested sites that try to meet all the above.

InPost

The use of the InPost lockers has taken off from day one based on the number of people seen going to and fro. It has also created a lit area for those queuing for fish and chips. We would like to get your direct feedback on the service, positives/negatives, do we need more? Are there other similar services we should approach?

Councillor Vacancy

We now have 2 vacancies for Parish Councillor, so please call the Parish Clerk to find out more. Being a parish councillor is a direct way to participate and help in your community. It does take a few hours per week, but it is very rewarding so give it some thought. If you have any questions, please call the Parish Clerk or any Councillor to have a chat.

Parish Council Meetings:

Our next Finance & General Purposes meeting is on March 12th at 7 p.m. and the next Full Council meeting will be on March 26th at 7 p.m., both in the Village Hall as usual.

Agendas for all meetings are published online and the associated reports can be requested from the Parish Clerk. Meetings always start with a public participation session, so please come along if you have suggestions or questions that you would like to discuss with the Parish Council or stay and listen to our discussions, because it's all about your village.

Alf Bush,

Chair, Lytchett Matravers Parish Council

For further information please visit our website at: https://lytchettmatraverspc.org/ or contact the Parish Clerk via lytchettmatravers@dorset-aptc.gov.uk You can find us and comment on the Lytchett Matravers PC Facebook page. The Parish Clerk can also be contacted directly on 07596-885667.